

Message Text

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SUBJ: DANISH INITIATIVE FOR AN EC DISCUSSION ON THE POLICY

TOWARDS NORTH ATLANTIC REGIONS DEPENDENT UPON FISHING.

SUMMARY. DANISH GOVT PRESENTED A MEMORANDUM TO THE EC COUNCIL
APRIL 2-3 MEETING REQUESTING DISCUSSIONS ON EC FISHERY
POLICY TOWARDS NORTH ATLANTIC REGIONS WHOSE ECONOMIES ARE HEAVILY
DEPENDENT UPON FISHING. MEMORANDUM SUGGESTS THAT INHABITANTS OF
THESE REGIONS SHOULD BE GIVEN PRIORITY ON FISHING INSIDE AND OUTSIDE
TWELVE MILES, SPECIAL MARKETING ARRANGEMENTS, SUBSIDIES, AND RE-
CIPROCITY IN EACH OTHERS WATERS. IT ALSO SUGGEST THAT ASSISTANCE
BE GIVEN TO THOSE WHOSE TRADITIONAL FISHING IN THE REGIONS WILL
BE REDUCED OR ENDED. THE DANISH INITIATIVE APPEARS PRINCIPALLY
INTENDED TO BLUNT PRESSURE FROM FAROESE AND GREENLANDERS FOR
EXTENDED FISHERY RIGHTS BUT IS ALSO REPRESENTATIVE OF DANISH
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ATTEMPTS TO BECOME VOICE FOR NORDICS (IN THIS CASE ICELAND AND NORWAY) IN EC. END SUMMARY.

1. DANISH MEMORANDUM (SEPARAE AIRGRAM) WAS INITIALLY PRESENTED TO PERM REP MEETING IN LATE MARCH AND INTRODUCED TO EC COUNCIL BY MINISTER NORGAAARD. IT OUTLINES A SUGGESTED NEW EC FISHERY POLICY TOWARDS GREENLAND, THE FAROE ISLANDS, NORTHERN NORWAY, THE SHETLANDS, THE ORKNEYS, AND PERHAPS OTHERS. BY INFERENCE, ICELAND IS PROBABLY

ONE OF THE OTHERS. THE MEMO SUGGESTS CHANGES IN THE EC FISHERY POLICIES AIMED AT SOLUTIONS FOR THE NORTH ATLANTIC REGIONS ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

- A) PRIORITY TO INHABITANTS IN THE REGIONS FOR FISHING IN AND OUTSIDE THE TWELVE MILE LIMIT.
- B) RECIPROCITY AMONG THE DIFFERENT REGIONS.
- C) EC SUBSIDIES TO FISHERIES OF THOSE REGIONS.
- D) SPECIAL AGREEMENTS WITH OTHERS CONCERNING SALES AND SUPPLIES.
- E) HELP TO THOSE REGIONS OF THE COMMUNITY WHICH MAY HAVE THEIR TRADITIONAL FISHING RESTRICTED, AND
- F) WILDLIFE CONSERVATION.

EMBASSY COMMENTS

2. THE DANISH INITIATIVE IS AN ATTEMPT TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO OR OFFER ALTERNATIVES TO POSITION ON FISHING RIGHTS HELD BY THEIR FAROESE AND GREENLAND OUTLYING AREAS, AS WELL AS TO POSITIONS HELD BY NORWAY AND ICELAND. WHILE DOMESTIC CONSIDERATIONS MAY BE PARAMOUNT, INITIATIVE ALSO REPRESENTS CONTINUATION OF DANISH EFFORTS TO BECOME SPOKESMAN IN EC FOR NORDICS.

A. IN GREENLAND, THE POWERFUL HUNTERS AND FISHERMEN ASSOCIATION AND THE GREENLAND COUNCIL FAVOR A 50 MILE FISHING LIMIT. THE LIMITS QUESTION AND INCLUSION OF GREENLAND IN THE EC DESPITE A NEGATIVE MAJORITY IN LAST OCTOBER' S EC REFERENDUM HAVE HELPED FUEL DEMANDS FOR LOCAL AUTONOMY BY GREENLAND POLITICIANS. FISHERIES ARE THE MAINSTAY OF THE ECONOMY AND OFFER THE ONLY REAL AVENUE FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

B. THE FAROE ISLANDS ALREADY HAVE HOME RULE AND HAVE OPTION OF JOINING EC OR NOT. FAROESE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ADOPTED A RESOLUTION ON APRIL 9 STATING THAT THE ISLANDS WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO ENTER THE EC UNDER PRESENT FISHERY CONDITIONS. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE FAROESE SITUATION IS FURTHER COMPLICATED BY THE FACT THAT THE MAJOR PART OF THE FAROESE FISH CATCH IS TAKEN OFF THE COAST OF OTHER COUNTRIES. THIS FACTOR MAY EXPLAIN THE SECTION IN THE MEMO CONCERNING RECIPROCITY ON FISHING.

C. NORWAY SEEMS DETERMINED TO EXTEND FISHING LIMITS OFF THE COAST OF NORTHERN NORWAY AND IS ONLY DELAYING ITS DECISION BECAUSE THE UN CONFERENCE ON THE LAW OF THE SEA IS SCHEDULED IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THE DANISH MEMORANDUM WOULD FIT IN WITH NORWEGIAN ASPIRATIONS.

D. THE PROPOSAL SEEMS ALSO TO BE AN EFFORT TO SOLVE THE ICELAND FISHING LIMITS IMPASSE. NEVERTHELESS, IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW ANY MEANINGFUL CONCESSION COULD BE MADE BY ICELANDIC POLITICIANS IN THE FACE OF NEARLY UNIVERSAL SUPPORT OF THE 50 MILE LIMIT BY THE ICELANDIC PEOPLE.

E. INCLUSION OF SHETLANDS AND ORKNEYS APPEARS INTENDED TO BALANCE U. K. CRITICISM OF RESTRICTIVE EFFECTS ON OTHER BRITISH FISHING WITHIN ENVISIONED EXCLUSIVE FISHING ZONES. AND, IT WILL LEAVE RESOURCES OFF THESE ISLANDS OPEN, UNDER THE RECIPROCITY CLAUSE, TO CONTINUED FISHING BY FAROESE FISHERMEN WHO DEPEND UPON THEM FOR A MAJOR PART OF THEIR CATCH.

F. THE PROPOSAL IS SURE TO ANGER SOUTH DANISH FISHERMEN WHO ARE OPPOSED TO WIDE FISHING LIMITS FOR ANYONE, NORDIC BROTHER OR NOT. THEY FEAR THAT RESTRICTIONS ON FISHING IN THE NORTHERN NORTH ATLANTIC MEANS GREATER FISHING EFFORT IN THE NORTH SEA WHERE THEY FISH. THE SOUTH DANES HAVE ALREADY TAKEN NORGGAARD TO TASK FOR HIS EFFORTS TO SECURE GREATER DUTY CONCESSION IN THE EC FOR NORWEGIAN FISHERY PRODUCTS
DUNNIGAN

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